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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

The Microsoft Settlement is not in the public interest because its terms allow Microsoft to exclude open source software projects such as SAMBA, Apahe, and OpenOffice.org from technical details of Microsoft implementations, allowing Microsoft to continue to benefit from it's illegally obtained and maintained monopoly on both client operating systems as well as web browsers. (Section J. 2. Paragraph c " meets reasonable, objective standards established by Microsoft for certifying the authenticity and viability of its business". A fair settlement would ensure that open source projects have resonable access to Microsoft protocols.

SAMBA, the most significant competing implementation of Microsoft's file sharing and authentication protocol.

Open Office (the basis for Star Office, the most vigorous competitor to Microsoft Office) will likely face significant hurdles in obtaining data on newer Microsoft file formats.

The settlement has been characterized as full of large holes, confusing, subject to manipulation,

Analysis of the Microsoft Settlement from a Samba perspective
<http://lwn.net/2001/1108/a/samba-ms.php3>

He's Not in It for the Profit
<http://www.pbs.org/cringely/pulpit/pulpit20011206.html>

Why competitors are largely quiet on Microsoft settlement
<http://www.siliconvalley.com/docs/news/tech/049642.htm>

Washington Post: U.S. Settlement Leaves Microsoft More Entrenched
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn?pagename=article&node=&contentId=A22-2001Nov8>

Thoughts on the Microsoft Settlement by Tim O'Reilly
<http://www.oreillynet.com/cs/user/view/wlg/808>

Microsoft decision questioned
<http://money.cnn.com/2001/12/12/technology/microsoft/>

